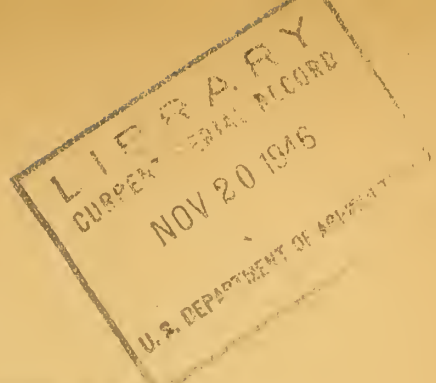


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PMA Information Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
November 1, 1946



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DODD REPORTS ON FEC RESULTS

As a brief report to producers on how much good wheat from U. S. farms has done and how grateful the average European feels for this aid, N. E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture, and Robert Shields, PMA Administrator, have written PMA State and County Committees about their observations during a recent European trip. Here is most of the report:

"You undoubtedly recall the day in Athens, Greece, when we were visiting the ruins of the old Acropolis. An elderly man came up to our party and was full of smiles for the visiting Americans as he told us in broken English, 'America, she saved my country.' I think that's the way a whole lot of Europeans feel today -- 'America, she saved my country.'

"We ought to tell farmers how much those hungry folks have needed our food -- Greece, for example, which is one of the worst off. Their farming is on a pretty small scale, compared with ours. My notes show that only 15 percent of their land can be cultivated, the average farm is 7 acres in size, and 35 percent of their farm houses were destroyed in the war. The average farmer often loses as much a month of work during the year because of malaria. Around 7 percent of the people show signs of T. B. A country like that really needs help, and I know it made me feel good to see those people eating food from American farms and to find out that they gave one-third of their UNRRA food exclusively to children, expectant mothers, and hospitals.

"During the principal 15 months of the Famine Emergency Campaign (July 1945-September 1946) figures show that the U. S. shipped approximately 530 million bushels of grain and grain products overseas. I wish everyone in the country could realize how much of a lifesaver this food has been. Some of our home folks have been wondering whether the food sent overseas really gets to the people who need it. You and I visited 17 war-torn countries. We have to assure our folks that we saw American wheat and flour, and that we saw the working people eating bread made from it, and that we saw great quantities of canned goods being distributed, with 'USA' plainly marked on the labels.

"We all regretted last spring that world famine conditions made it necessary to organize a wheat export program so rapidly. Some American farmers who answered the first call and sold their wheat early didn't get as much financial return as those who held off a while. I was one of those who sold early and I know how wheat growers came to feel about it.

"But now, after seeing and talking with those people over there -- and after seeing the increased vigor of youngsters who otherwise might have starved -- I feel no regrets as far as my own farming operations are concerned. I figure that the wheat from my farm helped provide many families with the bread they needed to stay alive.

"While we're telling about a fine and humanitarian job already done, we also can point out that many Europeans still need a helping hand if they're really to get back on their feet. They're hopeful (just as we'd be under similar circumstances) that we'll keep on making American foods available into 1947 and not stop short now when they're beginning to see their way clear to being self-supporting."

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EUROPE PROGRESSES IN SIXTEEN MONTHS OF PEACE

Only a fifth of Europe's factories were going 16 months ago when the war stopped. Today almost three fourths are working.

Picking their way through debris-clogged streets and eating slim meals, men have repaired factories, relaid railroads, drained mines, cleared farms of mines, and plowed the fields. Behind the swift recovery has been supreme efforts by Europe's people.

Here's the score on European conditions as reported by the Associated Press, based on on-the-spot reports of a United Nations committee:

Food — Last year Europe turned out 60 percent of its normal crops. This year that went up to 80 percent. Europe still will have to import 12 million tons of bread grains for 1946-47.

Manpower — General labor shortage is beginning to show up, even though all factories are not going. "Spot" unemployment. Poland and Yugoslavia both have between 3 and 4 million farm workers too many, but Germany and Italy have factory workers without jobs. A labor pool is suggested by the U.N. committee to shift the jobless to spots where they're needed.

Coal -- Europe's first worry to get industries going. When the war ended, coal mining stood at 57 percent of normal in Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the United Kingdom. Europe's mines are now up to 72 percent of production. Poland and France are turning out even more than they did in 1940.

Raw Materials -- Worst shortage is lumber. To help move Swedish and Finnish timber to other countries, the two nations are getting special coal allocations.

In steel, the limits placed on German steel-making have left a gap. Other nations are building up plants, but it will take years before Europe will know its new steel capacity.

Machinery -- Europe must buy as much as it can get loans for. Right now the only big sources of machinery are the United States and the United Kingdom, with some help from Canada, Switzerland, and Sweden.

Housing -- Shortage of housing is slowing down rebuilding because of conditions under which workmen live. Most governments are pushing regional planning and standardized buildings to cut costs and time. Belgium is granting loans at 2 percent to builders; Norway is making an effort to keep rents at 20 percent of the renter's income.

Railroads -- On these depend all rebuilding, since they haul materials to factories, food to cities, and supplies to homesites. Rolling stock, scattered all over Europe last June, was sorted out and returned to home nations. Poland has done the most startling job, hauling as much tonnage as she did in 1940 with only half her prewar locomotives.

Further recovery will depend on trade among the nations, UN reports. For many countries, trade will depend on selling enough to buy -- and for a while on getting loans.

Several European nations are trying to hold to a pay-as-you-go-basis. They're doing it by tightening their belts and limiting purchases abroad.

If everything works out smoothly, the UN committee thinks that Europe can expect again to be selling as much as she buys by 1948 or 1950.

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FOOD CRISIS POSSIBLE IN 1947

Without imports, countries now receiving UNRRA aid face another food crisis in 1947, according to an UNRRA report to the United Nations.

Although the 1946 harvest will be above that of 1945, food production in UNRRA-assisted countries will still be considerably lower than in prewar years. These countries include Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Austria, and China.

With one or two possible exceptions, UNRRA points out that these countries will not have available sufficient foreign exchange to import needed food-stuffs and at the same time import raw materials and equipment for full industrial employment.

Self-sufficiency of the countries depends on further recovery of production and exports. Exports have been limited by supply shortages and these other factors:

1. Currency over-valuation--inflation has pushed prices out of line with rate of exchange and commodities are too expensive for the foreign buyer.
2. Disappearance of the German market--the trade of Eastern and Southern Europe was unduly concentrated on Germany for several years before the war. This was caused by Germany's geographical position, economic resources, and exploitation of political power. Today the export outlet has completely disappeared.
3. Inadequate monetary arrangements--trade in the bankrupt area of Europe is conducted by barter agreements. Countries are unwilling to do business with another "weak currency" country because balances resulting from export surplus cannot be transferred to third countries.
4. Impoverishment of markets--countries such as Italy, Austria, and Greece normally export luxuries and semi-luxuries to other countries in the area. At present exchange is not available for the import of these articles.
5. Political difficulties--even barter agreements have failed to be concluded between a number of countries, owing to political difficulties.

UNRRA will have delivered about $3\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars' worth of supplies on completion of its program in 1947, of which the lion's share has been food-stuffs. Other assistance has included clothing, medical supplies, and supplies needed to rehabilitate the industrial and agricultural machines in these countries and so head them on the path to a balanced economy.

• NATIONAL GARDEN CONFERENCE SET

"Gardens for Food, Health, and Good Living" will be the general theme of the national garden conference, to be held December 5 and 6 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Garden and horticultural leaders throughout the country are being invited to attend. The conference had been scheduled for early in November, but was postponed because of a hotel strike in Washington.

In addition to a program of talks on the domestic and world food situations, plans are to hold panel discussions on major garden and horticultural problems.

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WOMAN BROADCASTER REPORTS ON EUROPE

October issue of "The Beam," bulletin of the Association of Women Radio Directors, carries an article, "Are We Our Sisters' Keeper," giving impressions about war-ravaged Europe by Rhea McCarty of Columbus, Ohio. Miss McCarty was one of four persons who toured Europe for 2 months to make a study of food conditions for Station WLW. In part, she says:

"The vast amount of materials which we secured on our WLW European Food Mission....is serving to remind Americans that the war against hunger abroad has not yet been won....diets now in the countries facing famine are low -- many times one-half or less of those we are enjoying in America....

"But above all, there's a new idea alive in the world--that a people's hunger becomes an international responsibility. The rehabilitation of countries' war-stricken economy appears to be a form of world insurance against future wars! So let's hope that we American women broadcasters realize these factors and meet our responsibility by creating a better understanding among the women-- to solve the immediate needs of our fellow men and, most important of all, improve the outlook for world peace."

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SAME STORY--COOPERATION DOES IT!

Here's a report on worthwhile summer activities of the Syracuse (N.Y.) Famine Emergency Committee, forwarded by Tracey K. Jones, Chairman:

"Through July, August, and September, we conducted an extensive canning campaign throughout Syracuse and Onondaga Counties..."We have every reason to believe our goal of 3.5 million jars of foodstuffs canned was successful.

"We also conducted a 'White Market' campaign, encouraging farmers to phone in to the Farm Bureau if they had food products which would go to

waste unless someone came to help harvest the crops. This was a tremendous success. Newspapers and radios cooperated....on some days 300 and 400 people were out helping harvest crops....Over 10,000 bushels of tomatoes were saved. During the last month this plan has been operating in saving other crops.

"The Committee has also cooperated with a number of women's organizations in enlisting the cooperation of restaurants and hotels in saving bread during the summer months."

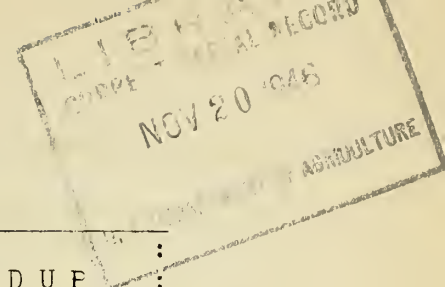
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KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

A word to the ladies--it's still important to continue boosting food conservation and fat salvage.

The Scranton(Pa.) Women's Club thought it so important that a discussion of the world food situation featured the opening of its fall season. Famine films were shown; an exhibit of foods without short-supply ingredients was on display; and recipes for salad dressings without oil and pastries with chicken fat and other fat substitutes were made available to the housewives present.

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TOP FARM PRODUCTION CALLED FOR IN 1947

A continuing world need for the things U. S. farmers can produce is the reason behind Secretary Anderson's call for another year of top farm output and a consequent delay in transition to peacetime production levels.

The total 1947 acreage sought is 358.5 million acres, about 3 percent more than actual acreages in 1946.

In announcing recommendations for national farm goals in 1947, the Secretary described the farm production job next year as (1) production to meet the needs of a strong domestic demand, (2) production to supply some of the foods and other farm products still badly needed in war-devastated areas, (3) a start toward rebuilding reserves of certain commodities, and (4) working again toward a sounder program of proper land use and soil conservation.

Farmers are asked especially to increase production of such world-scarce commodities as fats and oils and sugar. This would permit meeting U. S. requirements with domestic supplies, thus making supplies from other countries available to other shortage areas.

Greatest expansions in acreage are indicated for cotton, flax, dry beans, soy beans, barley, rye, and grain sorghums.

The recommended goals will be considered this month at meetings of State USDA Councils, which include representatives of Federal and State agricultural agencies. Final goals will then be announced, after reports on local conditions and recommendations are received from States.

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WORLD FOOD SITUATION

Another acute shortage of food next spring can be averted only by careful utilization of export supplies, says the Department of Agriculture.

While world food production in 1946-47 will be about 7 percent larger than this past year, exportable supplies in terms of calories may be no larger. At the same time, the demand for food from exporting countries is likely to be nearly as great.

Here are factors which are stimulating food demands in importing countries:

1. Low food stocks and a desire to increase them sufficiently to meet day-to-day distribution problems.
2. A desire to increase rations, which have been too low to maintain physical strength.
3. High purchasing power in many countries where war did not curtail production activities, and a demand by people for more food and better diets.
4. A population increase of 7 percent during war years.

What countries are likely to need substantial food imports during the coming year? Information available now indicates these major needs:

CONTINENTAL EUROPE -- will need substantial imports from overseas to maintain even the 1945-46 consumption level. As a whole, continental Europe was on deficit basis in prewar times, importing 10 percent of food supply for a population which was smaller than now. Shipments from formerly surplus-producing regions of eastern and southeastern Europe to west are likely to be insignificant. Need for increase in food consumption has been intensified by another year of hunger and deficiency. To improve the diet while increasing the calorie intake, substantial amounts of animal protein foods, fats, and sugar would have to be imported.

UNITED KINGDOM -- must depend more on outside sources of supply than in 1945-46. Food stocks are low, and home production reduced by bad harvest weather, and reduced acreage. Has entered into agreements with Dominions, Denmark, and Argentina, to take certain exports. Wheat contract with Canada will go far in assuring supplies to meet wheat and flour import requirements.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA -- likely to need imports of grain and vegetable oils as well as sugar. Import requirements will be much below 1945-46 actual imports because of increase in domestically produced food.

MIDDLE EAST -- Generally, food supplies expected to be ample for domestic needs and provide substantial exports. Saudi Arabia and Palestine, as usual, will need heavy imports of foodstuffs.

FAR EAST -- food deficits for 1947 consumption will probably amount to 9.2 million tons of cereals, which appears to be in excess of supplies that will be available in world markets. Greatest deficit areas are in China, India, and Japan; then Korea, the Philippines, Ceylon, Netherlands East Indies, Malaya, Hongkong, and Manchuria.

At present, most critical situations are in South Central China, where large numbers of people have starved and where the need for relief continues

acute; in India, where problem is to obtain sufficient food grains to maintain rationing until the autumn rice crop reaches the market; in Korea, where about 5-1/2 million people must be fed mainly on imported grains until rice is available from this year's harvest.

By commodities, the world food supply shapes up this way:

Wheat and rye production is 12 percent larger than in 1945-46 and about 96 percent of prewar. Depletion of stocks partly offsets the gain, however, and breadgrain supplies probably will continue to be short in relation to need. Shortages of rice and other foodstuffs and of grains for feed will tend to strengthen the demand for wheat and flour.

Rice harvest in major producing countries may be larger than in previous year but still below average because of smaller acreage and unfavorable weather. Exportable rice supplies may be about same as last year, or one-fourth of prewar.

Sugar, edible oils, dried fruits, and nuts supplies are expected to be somewhat larger, but exports probably will be below prewar.

Meat, dairy products, and egg production is not expected to exceed the level of 1946; quantities available for export probably will fall below 1946.

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AGRICULTURAL BRIEFS

World cotton production in 1946-47 is tentatively estimated at 22,050,000 bales, compared with the prewar average of 30,875,000 bales. Except for 1945-46, this is the smallest crop since 1923-24.

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The world corn crop for 1946-47 is forecast at about 5.5 billion bushels, the largest on record. This would be about 8 percent above the 1945 crop and 15 percent larger than the 1935-39 average.

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Japan's 1946 rice crop is estimated at 549 million bushels, substantially larger than last year's 457 million bushels, but 8 percent less than the prewar average. This crop would be only 78 percent of Japan's prewar rice utilization. Before the war Japan imported one-sixth of its rice from Korea and Formosa, where production this year is expected to be only sufficient for domestic needs.

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The 1946-47 rice crop of the Philippine Islands is expected to reach 90 million bushels, 15 percent larger than last season's 77 million bushels, a 25-year low. The prewar (1935-36 to 1939-40) average was 109 million bushels.

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South Africa's grain prospects are favorable and the country's total harvest of small grains is expected to be above average.

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: THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD COUNCIL has brought :
: to the attention of all member governments a resolu- :
: tion -- :
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: "emphasizing the necessity of carefully husbanding :
: food resources in all countries dependent upon food :
: imports to maintain their populations and the urgency :
: of conserving, in exporting countries, basic food :
: commodities to meet world needs during the present :
: crop year." :
:
: IEFC points out that world supplies of all the basic :
: foods are still far short of meeting world needs, :
: with particularly serious situations in cereals :
: (including rice), fats and oils, and sugar. :
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